

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An information stream monitoring system comprising:

an information monitoring device that monitors one or more electronic email documents in an information stream associated with a first electronic forum, and compares information about the one or more electronic email documents to one or more rules; ~~and~~

a forum spawning device that queries a set of users participating in the first forum when at least one of the one or more rules is satisfied, and creates a new electronic forum based on one or more replies from the set of users; and

a subscriber determining device that determines which of the queried users indicate interest in the new electronic forum and subscribes each interested user to the new electronic forum, but does not subscribe users of the set who do not indicate interest in the new electronic forum.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the forum spawning device queries the set of users to determine a need for the new electronic forum.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising a subscriber maintenance device that associates the new electronic forum and ~~at least one of the~~ set of users indicating interest in the new electronic forum.

6. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising an electronic document storage device that stores the one or more electronic email documents.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the information comparison is based on at least one of a rule-based model and a statistical-based model.

9. (Currently Amended) An information stream monitoring method comprising:

monitoring one or more ~~electronic~~ email documents in an information stream associated with a first forum;

comparing information about the one or more ~~electronic~~ email documents to one or more rules;

querying a set of users participating in the first electronic forum when at least one of the one or more rules is satisfied; ~~and~~

creating a new electronic forum automatically based on one or more replies from the set of users, and

subscribing each queried user of the set indicating interest in the new electronic forum to the new electronic forum, but not subscribing to the new electronic forum users of the set who do not indicate interest.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein querying the set of users determines a need for the new electronic forum.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, further comprising associating the new electronic forum and ~~at least one of~~ the set of ~~users~~ subscribers.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, further comprising storing the one or more ~~electronic~~ email documents.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the information comparison is based on at least one of a rule-based model and a statistical-based model.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~[[An]]~~ A computer readable information storage media comprising information that, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform a method comprising:

monitoring one or more ~~electronic~~ email documents in an information stream associated with a first electronic forum;

comparing information about the one or more ~~electronic~~ email documents to one or more rules;

querying a set of users participating in the first electronic forum when at least one of the one or more rules is satisfied; ~~and~~

creating a new electronic forum based on one or more replies from the set of users; and

subscribing each queried user of the set indicating interest in the new electronic forum to the new electronic forum, but not subscribing to the new electronic forum users of the set who do not indicate interest.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable information storage media of claim 17, wherein querying the set of users determines a need for the new electronic forum.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable information storage media of claim 17, further comprising associating the new electronic forum and at least one of the set of users.

22. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable information storage media of claim 17, further comprising storing the one or more ~~electronic~~ email documents.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable information storage media of claim 17, wherein the information comparison is based on at least one of a rule-based model and a statistical-based model.

25. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable information storage media of claim 17, wherein the ~~previously presented~~ information comparison compares at

least one of: subject information; ~~electronic~~ email document posting information; and ~~electronic~~ email document tracking information.

26.-30. (Canceled)

31. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the information stream comprises one or more ~~electronic~~ email messages flowing between two or more of the set of users.

32. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the information stream comprises one or more ~~electronic~~ email messages flowing between two or more of the set of users.

33. (Currently Amended) The information storage media of claim 17, wherein the information stream comprises one or more ~~electronic~~ email messages flowing between two or more of the set of users.

34. (Canceled)

35. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the one or more rules comprise at least one of the following: how long the electronic forum has been in use; how many email messages have been exchanged on the electronic forum; whether there has been a suggestion to create a new discussion forum; whether a certain number of email messages on a particular topic been received within a predetermined time period; whether the rate of email messages exchanged on a particular topic been statistically greater than normal; or whether a certain number of forum members exchanged email messages on a particular topic within a predetermined time period.

36. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the one or more rules comprise at least one of the following: how long the electronic forum has been in use; how many email messages have been exchanged on the electronic forum; whether there has been a suggestion to create a new discussion forum; whether a certain number of email messages on a particular topic been received within a predetermined time period; whether the rate of email messages exchanged on a particular topic been statistically greater than normal; or whether a certain number of forum members exchanged email messages on a particular topic within a predetermined time period.

37. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable information storage media of claim 17, wherein the one or more rules comprise at least one of the following: how long the electronic forum has been in use; how many email messages have been exchanged on the electronic forum; whether there has been a suggestion to create a new discussion forum; whether a certain number of email messages on a particular topic been received within a predetermined time period; whether the rate of email messages exchanged on a particular topic been statistically greater than normal; or whether a certain number of forum members exchanged email messages on a particular topic within a predetermined time period.

38. (Canceled)

39. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the comparison is between newer email messages and older messages to determine when a new topic of conversation has begun.

40. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 39, wherein the information monitoring device detects whether the new topic of conversation is likely to generate additional email messages.

41. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein ~~the forum spawning device further adds at least one of the set of users to the new electronic forum, and wherein the at least one of the set of users receives~~ the subscribers to the new electronic forum receive email messages from both the first electronic forum and the new electronic forum.

42. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the comparing is comparing newer email messages to older messages to determine when a new topic of conversation has begun.

43. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 42, further comprising detecting whether the new topic of conversation is likely to generate additional email messages.

44. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, ~~further comprises adding at least one of the set of users to the new electronic forum, and wherein said at least one of~~

~~the set of users receives~~ the subscribers to the new electronic forum receive email messages from both the first electronic forum and the new electronic forum.

45. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable information storage media of claim 17, wherein the comparison is between newer email messages and older email messages to determine when a new topic of conversation has begun.

46. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable information storage media of claim 45, further comprising detecting whether the new topic of conversation is likely to generate additional email messages.

47. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable information storage media of claim 17, ~~further comprises adding at least one of the set of users to the new electronic forum, and wherein said at least one of the set of users receives~~ the subscribers to the new electronic forum receive email messages from both the first electronic forum and the new electronic forum.

48.-50. (Canceled)